

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

February 17, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

I was so proud this week to announce that BioPort Corporation will invest \$75 million to expand its existing facility in Lansing, and keep hundreds of high-tech jobs right here in Michigan that would otherwise have gone to a competing site in Maryland.

BioPort is the company that produces the nation's supply of anthrax vaccine. It's a cutting edge business, and it's also a great example of two things:

First, it's a great example of the high-tech employers that my administration is working to attract and grow in Michigan, through our \$2 billion Jobs for Michigan Fund. We want more cutting edge life sciences companies to locate and expand in Michigan, along with businesses in other high-tech sectors, like alternative energy and advanced manufacturing.

Second, BioPort is a great example of why my administration is working hard to make our schools the best in the nation.

As our economy continues to undergo transition, more and more of our jobs will require math and science skills in the years ahead. Job providers will increasingly depend on – and expect – a highly educated, and highly skilled Michigan workforce.

That's why my budget proposal for the upcoming school year pushes education funding to its highest level ever.

But we have to do more than increase our investment. We have to increase the skill level of our students. We have to increase our efforts to give our children – who are our future workforce – the math and science education they need to succeed in the 21st century.

I've called for the Legislature to adopt a rigorous high school curriculum to ensure that every student receives critical math and science training.

Last year, at my request, the State Board of Education developed recommendations for that curriculum. And last month I urged the legislature to act on those recommendations by March, in order for them to be in place for the new school year that's only 6 months away.

I'm repeating my call for action on this proposal again today. It's an essential step in our long-term goal of building a stronger Michigan and a diverse economy that will keep our kids here. And it's a step that needs to be taken quickly – because the world is changing, and we have to change with it if we want great jobs and a great future for our families.

Thank you for listening.